

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Advisory Council MPA
Subcommittee Report
April 17, 2009

Moss Landing, CA
Kirk Schmidt

Objectives for SAC MPA Subcommittee

per motion from August 2008 SAC meeting

- 1) Assist the Sanctuary in clarifying the overall decision-making process it will use for determining the establishment of MPAs in federal waters of the Sanctuary.

Ongoing activity

- 2) Assist the Sanctuary in clarifying how the MPA Working Group and Science Panel processes would fit into the Sanctuary's overall decision-making process regarding the establishment of MPAs.

Ongoing activity

- 3) Advise the Superintendent on the stakeholder membership categories to be represented on the proposed MPA Working Group.

Complete

.....Continued

- 4) Advise the Superintendent on the areas of expertise to be included on the proposed Science Panel.

Complete

- 5) Assist the Sanctuary in clarifying the roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures for the proposed MPA Working Group and the Science Panel, including how the two groups would interact and work with each other.

Progress on defining roles and responsibilities

- 6) Assist the Sanctuary in developing the Application Process that would be used in recruiting potential members of the MPA Working Group and the Science Panel, as well as the criteria that would be used in evaluating applications and selecting members.

Deferred

- 7) Assist the Sanctuary in reviewing MPA Working Group applications and provide its recommendations on membership to the Superintendent.

Deferred

3) Advise the Superintendent on the stakeholder membership categories to be represented on the proposed MPA Working Group.

The SAC MPA subcommittee recommends these areas of expertise be represented on the WG with these numbers of representatives for each area of expertise.

- Commercial fishing (3)
- Recreational fishing (1)
- Harbors and ports (1)
- Tourism, Education, Local government (1)
- Conservation (3)
- Research **Institution** (1)

If either recreational fishing or conservation representation goes up the other goes up to maintain balance.

After discussion, the subcommittee unanimously approved as written with the following exception: *change research to research institution.*

All agreed that AMBAG members can apply for the “education, tourism or local government” seat.

4) Advise the Superintendent on the areas of expertise to be included on the proposed Science Panel (SP)

The SAC MPA subcommittee recommends

- ✓ The SP be composed of 12 members or less;
- ✓ Individuals can provide more than 1 area of expertise.
- ✓ Nine critical areas of expertise should be represented on the SP
 1. Deep-sea benthic biology/ecology
 2. Marine ecology (e.g. trophic/community interactions)
 3. Fisheries biology
 4. Ecosystem modeling
 5. Oceanography: physical, chemical, biological
 6. Fisheries stock assessments
 7. Marine resource economics (market and non-market or fisheries and non-fisheries)
 8. Social and cultural anthropology (current and future community structure)
 9. MPA knowledge/science

.....Continued

The following areas of expertise are also desirable for an SP member:

10. Habitat mapping
11. Marine geology
12. Marine impacts of climate change
13. Larval dispersal and adult movement expert (connectivity)
14. Experimental design
15. Marine pollution
16. Marine population biology

The sub committee reached consensus on the categories of expertise (critical and desirable) for 12 members as drafted at the 12/1/08 meeting.

5) Assist the Sanctuary in clarifying the roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures for the proposed MPA Working Group and the Science Panel, including how the two groups would interact and work with each other.

Drafted at 12/1/08 meeting:

- Meetings are open to the public, with notice to the public.
- Need opportunities for public comment at meetings.
- WG and SP work in parallel and communicate with one another and directly with MBNMS management.
- Need opportunities for joint meetings between WG and SP as needed.
- Final drafts of all products will be made available for public review and comment, prior to adoption.
- Need for specified meeting schedule and overall time lines.
- Need for staff and or facilitation support for WG and SP

5) Assist the Sanctuary in clarifying the roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures for the proposed MPA Working Group and the Science Panel, including how the two groups would interact and work with each other.

The subcommittee reached consensus on the following bulleted list:

- Meetings are open to the public, with notice to the public
- Need opportunities for public comment at meetings
- WG provides recommendations to the SAC regarding proposed action(s) regarding MPAS related to meeting the 3 identified needs of MBNMS
- Role 1 for SP: Superintendent tasks the SP to develop recommended science based evaluation criteria or guidelines for the WG. Guidelines drafted by the SP will be reviewed by the RAP and SSC, and reviewed for comment by the SAC, prior to submission to the WG.
- The MBNMS (superintendent) adopts the evaluation criteria for use by the WG.
- Role 2 for SP: advises WG, reviews and analyzes products/alternatives developed by WG, including the no-action alternative.